

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 34-40 are pending in the present application. Claims 4-33 have been cancelled.

Summary of Teleconference

Initially, the Applicants thank Examiner Rampuria for his time in the teleconference of September 16, 2004. During the teleconference, Applicants discussed a rejection in co-pending Application No. 09/695,921 [the '921 application], where the Examiner, in the '921 application, rejected claims 17-30 under 35 U.S.C. §101 [statutory double patenting] as claiming the same invention as claims 4-17 of the instant application. To remedy this statutory rejection, it was suggested that duplicate claims 4-33 in this application be cancelled to make the rejection moot in the '921 application.

Thus, Applicants have cancelled claims 4-33 herein, which are duplicates of claims 1-30 in the '921 application in an effort to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §101 rejection in the earlier-filed '921 application. Thus, the Examiner is kindly requested to enter this Supplemental Amendment.

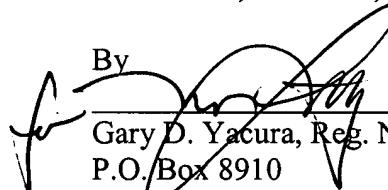
CONCLUSION

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Gary D. Yacura at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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